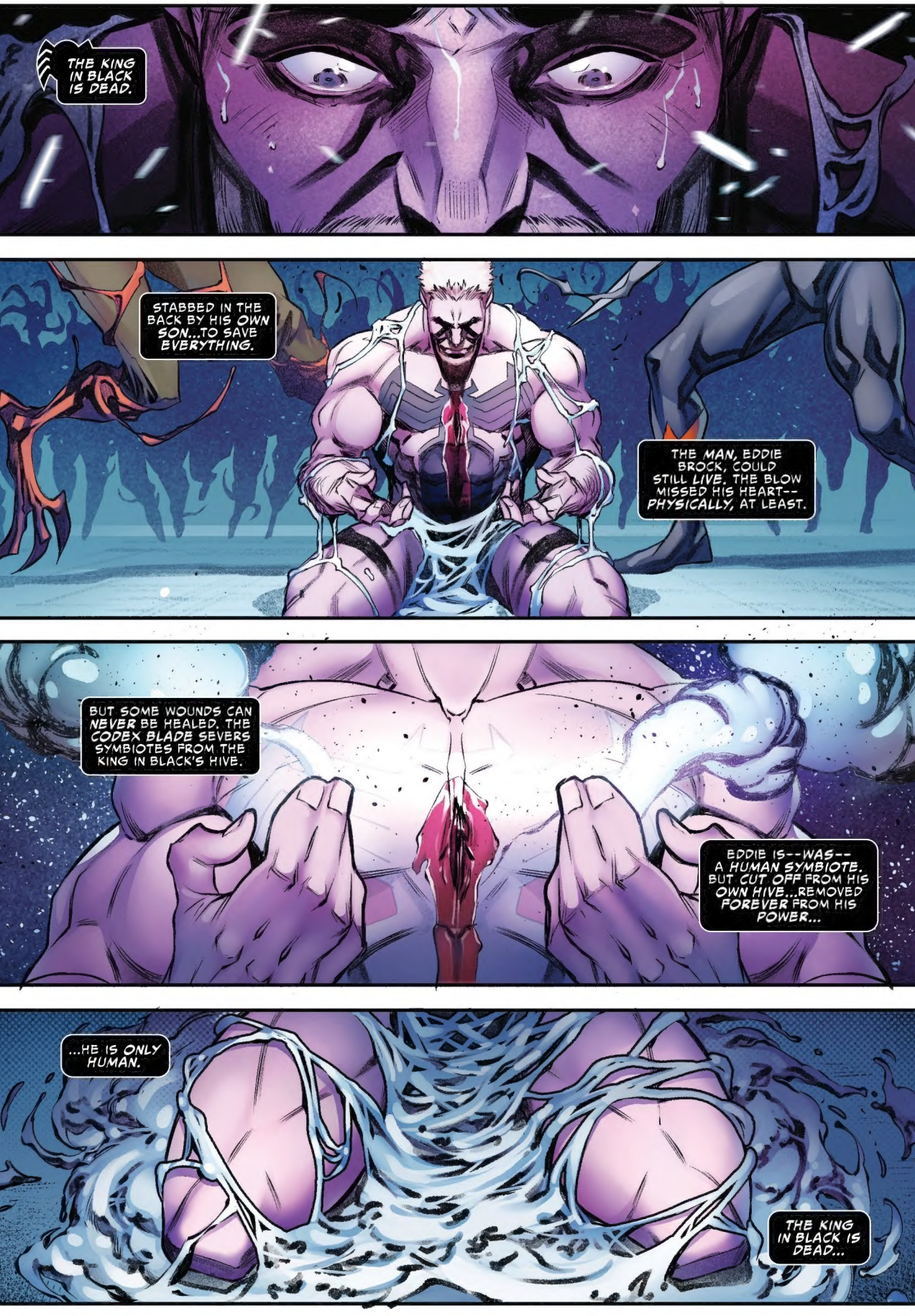
MARVEL
EWING
COELLO
D'ARMATA
VENOM WAR
5 OF FIVE
RATED T+


THE KING IN BLACK IS DEAD.
STABBED IN THE BACK BY HIS OWN SON...TO SAVE EVERYTHING.
THE MAN, EDDIE BROCK, COULD STILL LIVE. THE BLOW MISSED HIS HEART--PHYSICALLY, AT LEAST.
BUT SOME WOUNDS CAN NEVER BE HEALED. THE CODEX BLADE SEVERS SYMBIOTES FROM THE KING IN BLACK'S HIVE.
EDDIE IS--WAS--A HUMAN SYMBIOTE. BUT CUT OFF FROM HIS OWN HIVE...REMOVED FOREVER FROM HIS POWER...
...HE IS ONLY HUMAN.
THE KING IN BLACK IS DEAD...

...LONG LIVE THE KING IN BLACK.

HE ENTERS LIKE A FALLEN ANGEL CRASHING THE GATES OF HEAVEN.

KRKOOMMM

OH DEAR.

I THOUGHT I FELT A DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE.

MERIDIUS...THE FALLEN EDDIE BROCK FROM A FALLEN FUTURE. ARMED WITH ALL-BLOOD, THE NECROSPEAR.

I NEED MY OTHER BACK, EDDIE.

I NEED WHAT HE'S LEARNED--FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ZOMBIOTES. THE ONE THAT'LL REMAKE THIS WORLD IN MY IMAGE.

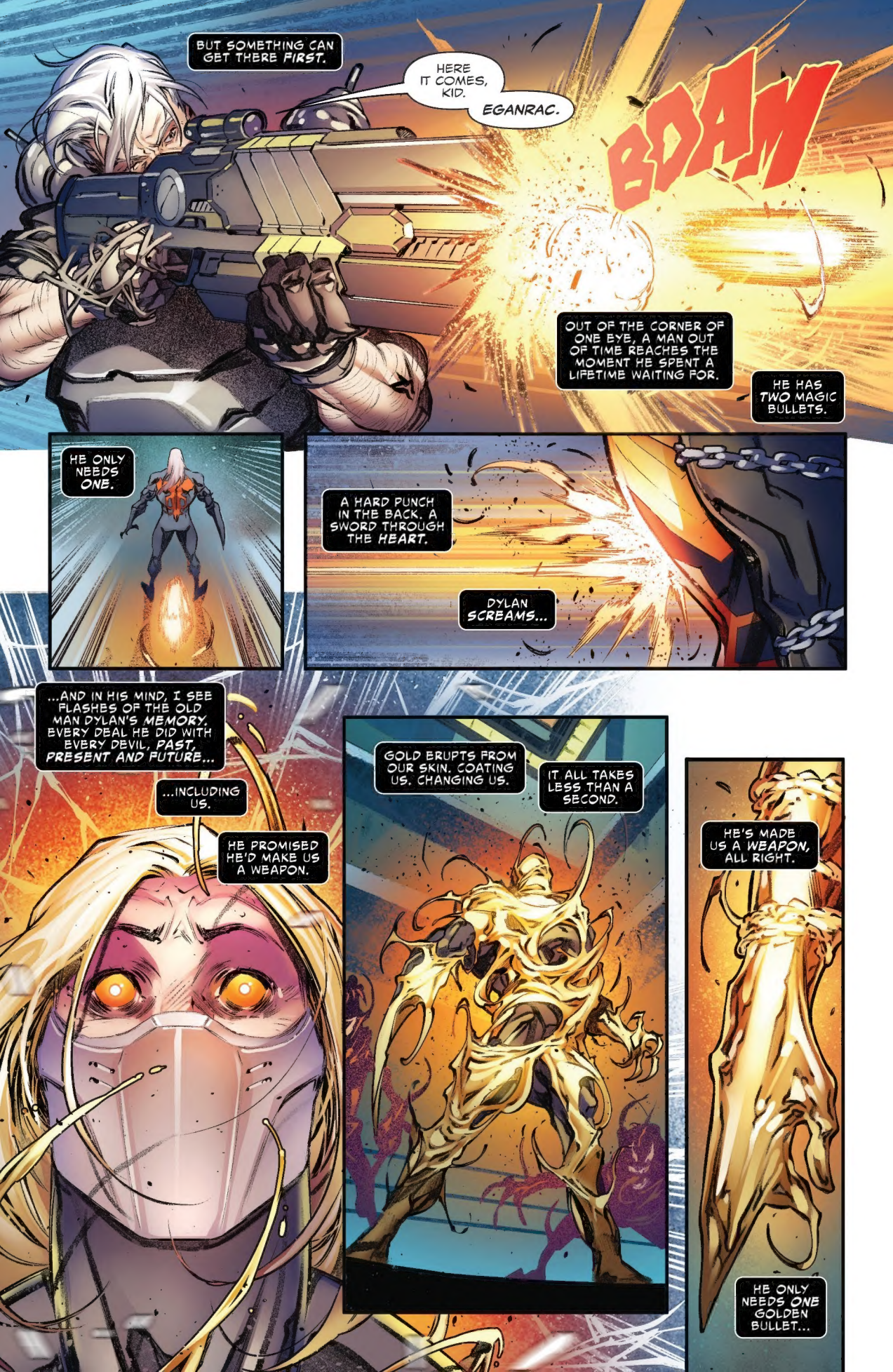
SO HE NEEDS A LITTLE TOUCH OF NECROSPEAR... JUST TO GET HIM ON BOARD.

GET OUT OF THE WAY.

WE LOOK DAMNATION IN THE FACE...AND DYLAN FREEZES.

AND AS TIME SLOWS TO A CRAWL...

...THE NECRO-SPEAR FLIES.
WHO WILL SAVE US?
TOXIN SCREAMS, BUT HE CAN'T REACH ME.
HE CAN'T EVEN SAVE HIMSELF. HE WON'T SAVE US.
BEDLAM IS UNRESPONSIVE MATTER. IS THE PAIN MAKING HIM STRONGER?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE WON'T SAVE US.
FLASH IS ALREADY TURNED. A RED ENGINE OF DEATH.
HE WON'T SAVE US.
AND EDDIE...EDDIE TRIES TO STAND. TO TAKE THE SPEAR FOR US.
NO...
BUT HE'S LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD.
HE WON'T SAVE US... BECAUSE NOTHING CAN.
NOTHING CAN STOP THE SPEAR.


BUT SOMETHING CAN GET THERE FIRST.
HERE IT COMES, KID.
EGANRAC.
BDAM
OUT OF THE CORNER OF ONE EYE, A MAN OUT OF TIME REACHES THE MOMENT HE SPENT A LIFETIME WAITING FOR.
HE HAS TWO MAGIC BULLETS.
HE ONLY NEEDS ONE.
A HARD PUNCH IN THE BACK. A SWORD THROUGH THE HEART.
DYLAN SCREAMS...
...AND IN HIS MIND, I SEE FLASHES OF THE OLD MAN DYLAN'S MEMORY. EVERY DEAL HE DID WITH EVERY DEVIL. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE...
...INCLUDING US.
HE PROMISED HE'D MAKE US A WEAPON.
GOLD ERUPTS FROM OUR SKIN. COATING US. CHANGING US.
IT ALL TAKES LESS THAN A SECOND.
HE'S MADE US A WEAPON, ALL RIGHT.
HE ONLY NEEDS ONE GOLDEN BULLET...

...AND WE'RE IT.
CLANG
CLONK
... OUR TURN.

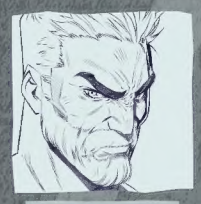
VENOM WAR

PART 5
AND THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE

EDDIE BROCK and his son, **DYLAN**, have waged war over who should remain bonded to the **VENOM** symbiote in an effort to prevent foretold dystopian futures. With both Brocks distracted, **MERIDIUS**--a version of Eddie from an averted branch timeline--took the opportunity to unleash his own plan...an outbreak of "**ZOMBIOTES**": mindless symbiotes turning the living and the dead into raging monsters.

Eddie, having made peace with Dylan and the Venom symbiote, used his abilities as the King in Black--God of all symbiotes--combined with Anti-Venom powers borrowed from **FLASH THOMPSON**, to stop the zombiotes and begin to cure them. But Meridius took **CARNAGE**'s Necrospear and corrupted symbiote and Eddie alike. The only way to stop Eddie going bad was for Dylan to turn on his father and stab him with his codex blade.

Meanwhile, another Dylan--an **OLD MAN VENOM** from another terrible future--had come back to the present to change the outcome of the war. Leaping through time, he created a golden weapon forged of science and magic and shaped into two golden bullets...two bullets he knew could change the fate of mankind.


EDDIE BROCK

DYLAN BROCK

TOXIN/
BREN WATERS

OLD MAN
VENOM

THE VENOM
SYMBIOTE

CARNAGE

MERIDIUS

AGENT
ANTI-VENOM/
FLASH THOMPSON

AL EWING
WRITER

IBAN COELLO
ARTIST

FRANK D'ARMATA
COLOR ARTIST

VC's ARIANA MAHER
LETTERER

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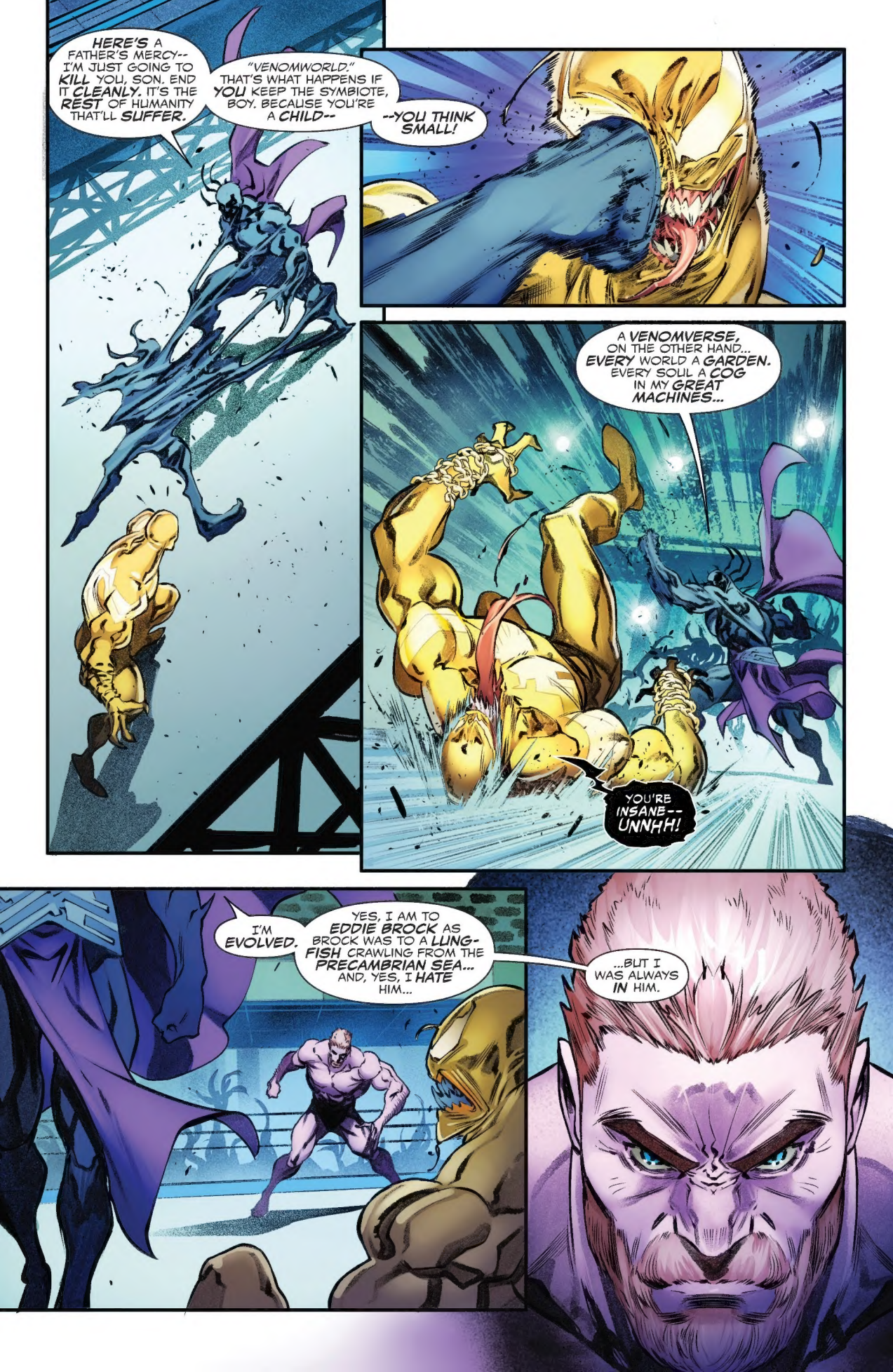
THE GOLD RESISTS THE RED--AND MORE THAN THAT. WE CAN FEEL IT ON THE DEEP LEVELS OF OUR BEING.
IT BURNS THE RED OUT.
WHAT-- WHAT IS THIS?
EGANRAC...
...THE ANTI-CARNAGE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING-- HRRKK!
IT'S CALLED A CHOKESLAM.
WAWWW

WAIT-- STOP--
DYLAN, LOOK AT ME--
WHAMM
LOOK AT ME! I'M YOUR FATHER, DYLAN!
EVEN NOW! EVEN NOW!
DON'T... DON'T LISTEN TO HIM...
BUT HOW CAN WE NOT?
EDDIE IS DYLAN'S FATHER. MY MOST BELOVED HOST. EVEN THIS EDDIE--EVEN MERIDIUS.
AND SO...WE HESITATE.
IT'S A MISTAKE.
WHUNCH
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FELL FOR THAT!


HERE'S A FATHER'S MERCY-- I'M JUST GOING TO KILL YOU, SON. END IT CLEANLY. IT'S THE REST OF HUMANITY THAT'LL SUFFER.
"VENOMWORLD." THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU KEEP THE SYMBIOTE, BOY. BECAUSE YOU'RE A CHILD--
--YOU THINK SMALL!
A VENOMVERSE, ON THE OTHER HAND... EVERY WORLD A GARDEN. EVERY SOUL A COG IN MY GREAT MACHINES...
YOU'RE INSANE-- UNNHH!
I'M EVOLVED.
YES, I AM TO EDDIE BROCK AS BROCK WAS TO A LUNG-FISH CRAWLING FROM THE PRECAMBRIAN SEA... AND, YES, I HATE HIM...
...BUT I WAS ALWAYS IN HIM.

NO!
NOT DEAD YET, EDDIE? ONE LAST GASP FROM THE CONDEMNED MAN...?
SUCH A WASTE OF EFFORT.
YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN, BROCK.
AND I'M SO MUCH MORE--
SO MUCH LESS.
YOU'RE NOT THE EVOLVED ME. YOU'VE GONE BACKWARD!
LOST YOUR HUMANITY, YOUR HEART, YOUR SOUL...AND FOR WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU GIVE IT AWAY FOR?
OH, EDDIE.
HE'S DYING ON HIS FEET. BUT HE'LL STAY ON HIS FEET FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES...
...TO BUY ONE LAST CHANCE.

FOR POWER, EDWARD. FOR IMMORTALITY. FOR FREEDOM FROM MY CHAINS.
AND FOR REVENGE ON THE MAN WHO FORCED ME DOWN THAT ROAD IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...THE MAN IN THE MIRROR.
HURRKK--
BUT THAT'S FOR LATER, EDWARD.
YOU'RE THE DESSERT COURSE--AFTER I EAT EVERYTHING YOU LOVE.
ZOMBIOTES! DRAG HIM OUT! SHOW HIM OUR NEW WORLD!
I WANT HIM TO SEE IT!
THEY RUSH EDDIE LIKE LOCUSTS.
BUT I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT. ABOUT WHERE THEY'RE TAKING HIM.
NOT AFTER HE GAVE ME A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY...
MERIDIUS.

...TO SAVE OUR SON.
TIME'S UP.
HE DISTRACTED MERIDIUS--AND WE GOT HIS WEAPON. WHAT HE GAVE IT ALL AWAY FOR--ALL-BLOOD, THE NECROSPEAR.
A THING OF CARNAGE... BUT THE EGANRAC REVERSES THAT. IT MAKES THE SPEAR OURS--
--AS WE DRIVE IT RIGHT THROUGH MERIDIUS' HEART.

I FEEL MERIDIUS' DYING SCREAM AT THE EDGE OF OUR CONNECTION...
...AS IT ECHOES THROUGH HIS OWN. TOUCHING ALL THAT HE TOUCHED.
HIS SPECIAL MONSTERS... HIS SYMBIOTE FRANKENSTEINS...
HIS ZOMBIOTES.
THE MINDLESS UNLIFE THEY HAD DIES WITH HIM...AND THEY FALL, ALL ACROSS THE CITY, ALL ACROSS THIS WORLD...
...RIGHT BACK TO THE SOURCE.
EVERY ZOMBIOTE BONDED TO A HUMAN CEASES TO FUNCTION--MELTING INTO INERT SYMBIOTE MATTER.
EVERY SINGLE ONE.
THE WAR IS OVER...

...BUT WE'RE NOT DONE YET.
DYLAN SPEAKS THROUGH ME--A BORN LEADER. I AM SO PROUD OF HIM...
THE ZOMBIOTES ARE FINISHED--BUT THEY DRAGGED DAD OUT THERE. AND HE'S BLEEDING OUT.
WE NEED TO FIND HIM AND HEAL HIM BEFORE--
WAY AHEAD OF YOU--
--NOW THAT MY ANTI-VENOM'S BACK, I CAN HANDLE THE HEALING PART.
THEN LET'S GO.
I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU...
THANK ME? FOR WHAT?
DON'T YOU GET IT, KID?

GET WHAT...?
THE BIG BAD WHO MADE MY FUTURE HAPPEN. THE BIG DOMINO THAT STARTED THE WHOLE TOPPLE.
I TOLD YOU WHAT YOU WANTED TO HEAR, KID. WHAT YOU EXPECTED TO HEAR--THAT EDDIE BROCK STARTED IT.
IT ALL STARTED WHEN I BEAT MERIDIUS TONIGHT. WHEN I TOOK VENOM BACK.
BUT NOW... NOW THAT WON'T HAPPEN. I FIXED IT. I CAN REST.
I'M SORRY, KID...
...BUT THAT BULLET HAD YOUR NAME ON IT.
AND A TERRIBLE UNDERSTANDING DAWNS.
WHEN MATTER AND ANTIMATTER MEET, THEY ANNIHILATE THEMSELVES AND ANYTHING AROUND THEM.
WHEN CARNAGE MEETS THE ANTI-CARNAGE?

THEY DO THE SAME.
THEY DESTROY THEMSELVES... AND ANY SYMBIOTE CONNECTED TO THEM.
NO!
ALCHEMY IN REVERSE. THE GOLD TURNS BLACK...NOT THE SLEEK, SLIPPERY ONYX OF A HEALTHY SYMBIOTE, BUT THE BLACK OF A GANGRENOUS WOUND.
AND THEN I REALIZE SOMETHING.
D-DYLAN...
DYLAN IS PART SYMBIOTE, TOO.
...GET OUT!
I EJECT HIM FROM ME BEFORE THE CONTAGION REACHES HIM.
BUT FLASH IS HERE... SLEEPER AND TOXIN... EDDIE IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE. THEY CAN HELP ME. I KNOW THEY CAN.
IF THERE'S ENOUGH TIME.
THERE THEY ARE!
K-WEAPONS READY--FIRE ON MY SIGNAL!
BUT THERE'S NEVER ENOUGH TIME.

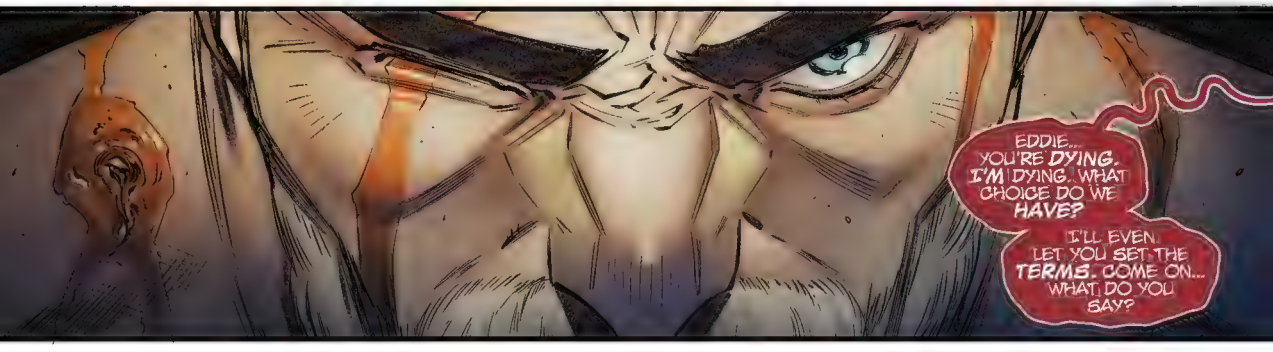
THE MELTING ONE'S GOT A CHILD HOSTAGE--
I CAN SMELL THE K-CHEMICAL IN THEIR WEAPONS. THE LEAD IN THE BULLETS.
THEY CAN KILL US...IF THEY FEEL THREATENED...
VENOM-- LET ME BACK IN! WE CAN FIGHT THIS!
WE CAN FIGHT THEM!
THEY WILL KILL US... UNLESS...
...
I LOVE YOU, SON.
WHAT--? NO!
DON'T SAY THAT-- DON'T--
GOODBYE, DYLAN.
DON'T!
THE MONSTER'S TRYING TO ESCAPE!

FULL AUTO!
BRING IT DOWN!
BRAKKABRAKKABRAKKA
BRAKKABRAKKABRAKKA
GOODBYE.
BRAKKABRAKKABRAKKA
CEASE FIRE! CEASE FIRE!
I'LL KILL YOU! YOU HEAR ME?
I'LL KILL ALL OF YOU!
KID'S HYSTERICAL--
IT'S OKAY, SON. WE GOT THAT THING.
IT WON'T HURT YOU ANY MORE...

"...NO SYMBIOTE'S EVER GONNA HURT YOU AGAIN."
EDDIE, EDDIE EDDIE.
OF ALL THE PLACES TO DIE IN...YOU DRAGGED YOURSELF BACK HERE? BACK TO THE CLASSICS, IS IT?
ME TOO, EDDIE. ME TOO.

I'M...NOT IN THE BEST OF SHAPE. I PUT TOO MUCH OF MYSELF INTO THAT SPEAR...NOW IT'S GONE, I CAN'T SURVIVE ON MY OWN.
BUT IT WAS WORTH IT. I FELT IT, EDDIE. YOUR OTHER... MY PARENT...
I FELT IT DIE.

AND NOW IT'S OUR TURN. YOU LOOK HOW I FEEL, OLD FRIEND.
THERE ARE WARM BODIES OUTSIDE TO SUSTAIN ME...BRIEFLY. BUT IF I COULD JUST GET A HOST...AN EXPERIENCED HOST.
GO TO HELL.


EDDIE... YOU'RE DYING. I'M DYING. WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?
I'LL EVEN LET YOU SET THE TERMS. COME ON... WHAT DO YOU SAY?

CAN THE TWO OF US MAKE A DEAL...?

VENOM WAR

NEXT

THE WICKED WEB-SLINGERS WANT YOUR ***BRAINS***-- I MEAN, YOUR ***LETTERS!*** SEND YOUR NOTES TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM.** BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE!

VENOM #39

VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF #1

WHO AND WHAT IS *THIS?!*

ALL-NEW VENOM #1

CHECKLIST

~~08/07/24 VENOM WAR 1~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM 36~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 1~~

~~08/28/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 1~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR 2~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 2~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM 37~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 1~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 1~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: DAREDEVIL 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 2~~

~~10/02/24 VENOM WAR 3~~

~~10/02/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 3~~

~~10/09/24 VENOM 38~~

~~10/09/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 2~~

~~10/16/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 2~~

~~10/16/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 3~~

~~10/23/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 3~~

~~10/23/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2~~

~~10/30/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 3~~

~~10/30/24 VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR 1~~

~~11/06/24 VENOM WAR 4~~

~~11/06/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 4~~

~~11/13/24 VENOM 39~~

~~11/13/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 3~~

~~11/13/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 3~~

~~11/20/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3~~

~~11/20/24 VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF 1~~

11/27/24 VENOM WAR 5

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

WHADDYA SAY, WEB-HEADS?! Spider-Editor Nick Lowe here, and it's been quite a month at Spider-Central! Not only are we just finalizing Zeb Wells' last issue writing AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and SPIDER-SOCIETY is coming to an end, but BIG things are happening in VENOM #39 and the close of VENOM WAR!!! But it's not just things ending, things are starting too! THE 8 DEATHS OF SPIDER-MAN is about to begin in ASM, and ALL-NEW VENOM is around the corner… Can you possibly believe we're burying the lede? Don't miss VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF #1, where everyone's favorite shark is getting his own symbiote!!! Kelly Thompson and Gurihiru are at it again, folks. Before I go, I want to say goodbye and thank you again to Zeb Wells (did you know he co-wrote that *Deadpool & Wolverine* movie?) for his tremendous run on ASM! Thanks for beating the stuffing out of Spidey, Zeb, and spinning one heck of a web.

Keep Thwippin',

Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

THIS MONTH'S HOST

NAME: Zeb Wells

TITLE: Writer

WHO IS YOUR REAL-LIFE SUPER HERO?

I once saw an Australian farm boy catch a jackrabbit with his bare hands. I'd follow this man into hell.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

Kraven the Hunter. We're all dealing with the legacies left behind from our parents in one way or the other.

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

When you fail, never ask yourself "What is wrong with me?" There's nothing helpful there. Better to ask "What is this failure trying to teach me?" That's how you grow.

NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

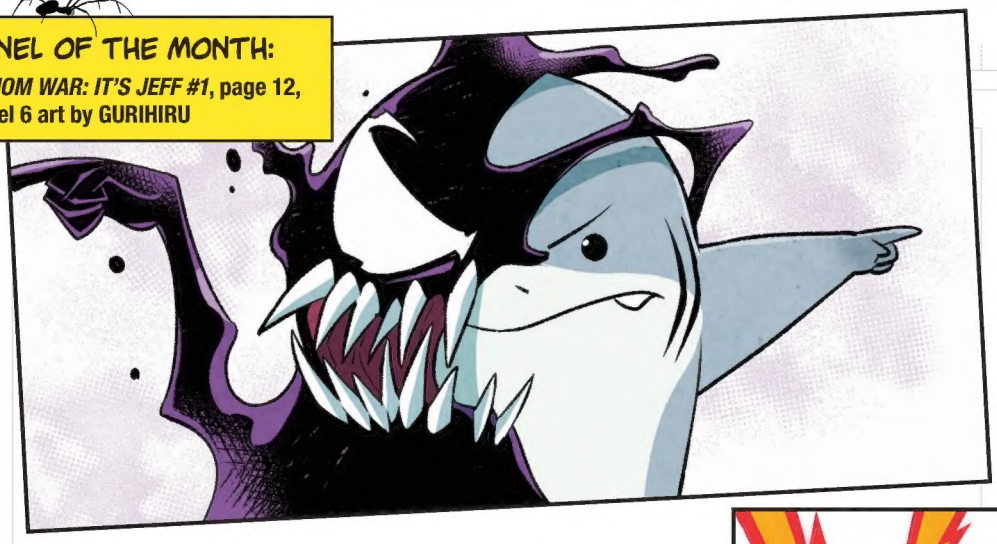
THWIP-LIST

- ❑ SPIDER-MAN: BLACK SUIT & BLOOD #4
- ❑ SPIDER-SOCIETY #4
- ❑ VENOM WAR #4
- ❑ VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN #4
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #61
- ❑ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MEN #9
- ❑ VENOM #39
- ❑ VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL #3
- ❑ VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE #3
- ❑ CHASM: CURSE OF KAINE #4
- ❑ MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #26
- ❑ SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #7
- ❑ SPIDER-MAN: REIGN 2 #5
- ❑ VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF #1
- ❑ VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #62
- ❑ SPIDER-BOY #13
- ❑ VENOM WAR #5

EMERALD BENSADOUN, KAITLYN LINDTVEDT & KAEDEN McGAHEY - Assistant Editors
TOM GRONEMAN - Associate Editor **JORDAN D. WHITE** - Senior Editor
NICK LOWE - Executive Editor

PANEL OF THE MONTH:

***VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF #1*, page 12, panel 6 art by GURIHIRU**



EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants--we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

SPIDER-SOCIETY #4
Variant Cover by DIKE RUAN

GAMMA CORNER

IS HE SPIDER, OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...OR IS HE NEITHER?

This month's issue of HULK is the legacy ***800th issue*** of the series! Not quite the 800th issue about the Hulk, since the big green guy took over TALES TO ASTONISH's numbering, but it's 800 issues of various monsters, of which ol' Jade Jaws is the best and brightest! To celebrate the occasion, we have not only an EPIC tale of Hulk in the clutches of Eldest, determined to use him to release the Mother of Horrors from her ancient prison, but ALSO all-new tales of his gamma-fam featuring She-Hulk, Red Hulk, and Brawn!

INCREDIBLE HULK #19
On sale 11/27

CHECK OUT:

An all-new ongoing weekly Infinity Comic series about the web-slinger just kicked off on Marvel Unlimited from *Comedy Bang! Bang!*'s Scott Aukerman and artist Salva Espín!

VENOM HORSE, PART 5 BY EWING, NIETO, D'ARMATA & MAHER.
GOOD GRAVY! VENOM HORSE IS BATTLING THE ZOMBIOTES!
VENOM HORSE (2024) IS A FIVE-PAGE BACKUP STORY RUNNING IN THE EVENT BOOK VENOM WAR (2024).
EVERY PAGE SHOWS THE TITULAR SYMBIOTE-CONTROLLED HORSE RAMPAGING THROUGH A NEW LOCATION.
DURING THE MAYHEM, THE HORSE KEEPS UP A DRY INNER MONOLOGUE REFERENCING VARIOUS CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC TEXTS.
THIS ABSURDIST JUXTAPOSITION POKES FUN AT THE ONE-DIMENSIONAL NATURE OF BOTH THE CHARACTER AND THE STRIP.
BY THE FOURTH EPISODE, THE REPETITIVE STRUCTURE BECOMES THE JOKE--BY THE FIFTH, THE COMIC HAS CANNIBALIZED ITSELF COMPLETELY.
BEFORE THIS NARRATIVE COLLAPSE, HOWEVER, VENOM HORSE (2024) MANAGES, DESPITE ITSELF, TO HINT AT A DEEPER MEANING.
THE COMIC QUOTES OSCAR WILDE: "ALL ART IS QUITE USELESS."
BY IMPLYING THAT EVEN SUCH A USELESS THING AS A MAD HORSE MADE OF GOO CAN BE, AND IS, ART...
...THE STRIP SUBTLY INVITES THE READER TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES AS POTENTIAL WORKS OF ART.
FOR DEEP DOWN, AREN'T WE ALL...VENOM HORSE?
GO, VENOM HORSE, GO!
END?